

First-year Students Enjoy MIT Orientation

Hockfield Greets Freshmen at Convocation Sunday; Graduate Orientation Underway

By JiHye Kim
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

With the fall term around the corner, first-year undergraduate and graduate students populated the campus this past weekend to kick-off this year's event-filled orientation programs.

The undergraduate orientation theme this year is "Tech Royale," which plays off the most recent James Bond movie "Casino Royale," according to Daniel W. Chapman, staff associate for the Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming.

This year, 1,069 freshmen and nearly 1,200 parents are expected to attend Orientation, Chapman said.

Orientation for the Class of 2011 began yesterday with Convocation in Killian Court. At Convocation, President Susan Hockfield formally welcomed new students and their parents to the Institute.

"We value the hand that reaches out ... that makes the world a better place," Hockfield said. She warned the incoming class about some of the trials they will face in the next four years, specifically addressing the "seemingly endless problem sets."

Bonnie Figgatt, parent of Caroline M. Figgatt '11, said that she was



DAVID TEMPLETON—THE TECH

Freshmen groove at the Dance Party Orientation event Saturday evening in La Sala de Puerto Rico in the Student Center.

glad to hear Hockfield talk about MIT's mission to improve the world. "It's very exciting to have a daughter coming to such a remarkable place," Figgatt said.

Many of the freshmen also took Hockfield's message to heart. "That's the biggest thing we need to be focusing on ... taking the education and giving back," Steven Arcangeli

'11 said.

During Convocation, the Orientation coordinators presented Hock-

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Final Demographics For Class of 2011 Released

By Yuri Hanada
STAFF REPORTER

The demographic breakdown of the Class of 2011 has been released, with gender and ethnicity statistics comparable to last year's.

Of the 1,069 students expected to enroll, 46 percent are female and 54 percent are male, according to Interim Director of Admissions Stuart Schmill '86.

Of the 3,526 female applicants,

21 percent were admitted to the Institute. Only 9 percent of the 8,919 male applicants were admitted. Schmill said that these data are often misconstrued and that it is not any easier for women to get into MIT. "The women that apply are more self-selecting so the talents of the women that apply and enroll are every bit as comparable to that of the men," Schmill said.

African Americans make up 9

percent of the class, comparable to the Class of 2010's 8 percent but an increase from the 6 percent of the previous three classes. (See the tables on page 10 for additional statistics.)

The remaining Class of 2011 is 38 percent Caucasian, 26 percent Asian American, 7 percent Mexican American, 1 percent Native American, 2 percent Puerto Rican, and 3 percent other Hispanic. One percent

is of other ethnic descent, 8 percent are international students whose ethnicity was not polled, and 5 percent did not respond.

The Class of 2011 represents all but one state (North Dakota) and 58 countries, with 8 percent of students arriving as international undergraduates. Ninety-two percent of the students are U.S. citizens and perma-

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Freshmen Placed in Top Four Housing Choices

By Angeline Wang
EDITOR IN CHIEF

A smaller percentage of incoming freshmen received their top choices in this year's Summer Housing Lottery compared with the last two years. The Housing Lottery placed the students of the Class of 2011 in their top four dormitory choices; the last two years, the freshman class was placed in their top three choices.

According to Robin Smedick, assistant director of undergraduate housing, 61 percent (654 students) of the Class of 2011 received their first choice dormitory, 27 percent (288 students) received their second choice, 8 percent (89 students) received their third choice, and 4 percent (41 students) received their fourth choice. Last year, 70 percent of the Class of 2010 received their first choice residence, 23 percent received their second, and 7 percent received their third. (See tables on page 10 for additional statistics.)

The Housing Office partners with Information Services & Technology on an algorithm that achieves the highest rate of satisfaction for freshmen, according to Smedick. Smedick said that the algorithm and lottery process were the same as previous years. The lower percentage of students receiving their top choice in this year's

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Frosh Explore Dormitories, Participate in REX Events

By Yuri Hanada
and JiHye Kim
STAFF REPORTERS

Residence Exploration events, designed for incoming freshmen to explore the 11 undergraduate dormitories, will continue until the end of the Housing Adjustment Lottery tomorrow. Events for REX began Friday, Aug. 24.

According to Dormitory Council REX Chair Preeya S. Phadnis '09, all dormitories will "hold events that showcase their dorm culture and provide opportunities for the freshmen to learn more about the dorms."

Freshmen may enter the Adjustment Lottery until tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m. Specific room assignments are determined Wednesday at each dormitory, and freshmen move into their new resident Thursday.

Although the events are not significantly different from those of previous years, West Campus parties for this year's REX involve different combinations of dorms, Phadnis said. The Sunday evening "West Side Bash" includes Baker House, Burton-Conner

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Assoc. Director of Admissions Discusses His MIT Experiences

By Angeline Wang
EDITOR IN CHIEF

This is the first interview in a seven-part series introducing incoming students to some of MIT's faculty, staff, and student leaders. Today, The Tech interviews Associate Director of Admissions Matthew L. McGann '00 who discusses his job, the evolution of MIT's culture, and opportunities for first-year students.

The Tech: What is your role at MIT and what does it mean to be an admissions officer here?

Matt McGann: I am one of the associate directors of admissions, which is a senior level officer in the MIT Office of Admissions. My role has a number of different aspects to it. Like all of the admissions officers, I read applications and participate in the selection committee. I also do information sessions on campus, as well as information sessions in a variety of cities across the country. All the admissions officers perform those roles

McGann, Page 12



NICK SEMENKOVICH—THE TECH

Several Harry Potter themed banners greeted freshmen in Lobby 7 yesterday morning.

In Short

¶ Lobby 7's automatic doors were back up and running on Tuesday, Aug. 21., with new hydraulic mechanisms that replaced the old pneumatic systems. Unfortunately, by Sunday evening, the exit door had failed.

¶ Anna's Taqueria prices have increased. Super burritos now cost \$4.60 each, regular burritos \$3.75, and quesadillas \$3.75. Previously, each cost \$4.20, \$3.35, and \$3.35, respectively.

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WORLD & NATION

Governor of Iran's Central Bank Resigns

THE NEW YORK TIMES TEHRAN, IRAN

The head of the Central Bank of Iran resigned Sunday, bringing the number of key economic figures who have left President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's Cabinet to three this month.

A government spokesman, Gholamhossein Elham, announced the resignation of the bank's governor, Ebrahim Sheibani, after weeks of rumors that he had resigned over his differences with Ahmadinejad.

Elham said a former economy minister, Tahmaseb Mazaheri, would succeed Sheibani, the Iranian Students News Agency reported.

The resignation came after the departures this month of the minister of oil, Kazem Vaziri-Hamaneh, and the minister of industry, Alireza Tahmasebi.

Sheibani had reportedly opposed Ahmadinejad's unexpected intervention to lower interest rates to 12 percent from 15 and 17 percent.

Economists were shocked after the president dissolved the Money and Credit Council, a monetary policymaking body, this month.

Home Depot Unit Sells For Less in Tight Market

By Andrew Ross Sorkin and Michael J. De La Merced
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Home Depot was forced to drop the sale price of its commercial supply business by nearly \$2 billion on Sunday, according to people involved in the negotiations, one of the first big buyouts to be renegotiated as a result of the recent credit squeeze.

The renegotiated deal, which cut the sale price roughly 18 percent, to \$8.5 billion, could lead to reconsideration of some other large buyouts that are pending and are worth nearly \$400 billion collectively. Such turmoil is likely to leave the Wall Street banks that backed those deals stuck with billions in loans that cannot be resold.

In cutting the price of the deal, Home Depot may have created a template for other buyout firms to drag sellers back to the negotiating table. It also could bring an end to the two-year buyout boom, which was fueled by cheap credit.

Home Depot's board approved the deal in principle during a meeting on Sunday afternoon, people involved in the negotiations said. Home Depot's board is planning to reconvene early Monday to complete the details of the agreement, which is tentative and could still collapse.

Mortgage Crisis Forces Sale of German Bank

By Nicola Clark
THE NEW YORK TIMES PARIS

The eastern German state of Saxony was forced to sell a troubled state-run bank Sunday as the global liquidity crisis set off by the U.S. subprime mortgage problems claimed its first major European victim.

Landesbank Sachsen Girozentrale, which received an emergency 17.3 billion euro (\$23.6 billion) line of credit from a group of regional savings banks Aug. 17, is being sold to a larger rival, Landesbank Baden-Württemberg, said the state premier of Saxony, Georg Milbradt. The state government controls 51 percent of the bank, known as Sachsen LB, which is based in Leipzig.

"As a result of the market turbulence and the resulting pressure on the bank, continuing its activities without a partner would not be feasible," Milbradt told reporters in Dresden on Sunday.

The swift sale of Sachsen LB was the most significant sign yet of just how hard it has become for many European lenders to obtain access to short-term financing amid widespread uncertainty over the extent of banks' investments in the souring mortgage-backed securities market.

Greek Forest Fires Continue To Advance; 12 More Killed

By Ian Fisher and Anthee Carassava
THE NEW YORK TIMES ZAHARO, GREECE

At least 12 more people were reported dead Sunday in fierce forest fires in Greece, as walls of flame, though slowed in somewhat calmer winds, continued to consume homes and to advance on the ruins where the Olympic Games were first played.

Scores of villages were evacuated in fires that turned the earth to white ash and the air to a soupy ochre, but not everyone obeyed: in the hilltop town of Karnasi here on the hard-hit Peloponnesian peninsula, Vassiliki Panagapoulou, 56, doused her tan dress with water, put a rag to her mouth and took a garden hose to the worst fires in Greece, by some accounts, since 1871.

"It's very scary but I have no other option," she said, after she and her son stopped flames ripping down a slope that threatened her nine white goats, 14 roosters and her home of 40 years. "There is no other woman trying to protect her home? I can't believe that."

Though the death toll was lower than that on Saturday — 46 people,

most here in the Peloponnese — the government warned that little progress was made Sunday in putting out the 44 separate fires. They continued to rage, even as firefighters and water-bearing planes began arriving from other European nations.

As firefighting planes arrived from France and Italy — with more expected from Germany, Slovenia and Poland — the conservative Greek government announced a bounty of about 1.4 million dollars for information leading to the arrest of arsonists. Two people have already been arrested, one elderly woman for starting a barbecue and a man on charges of arson.

While the government, led by Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis, has blamed arson, and many Greeks have turned to dark conspiracy theories, anger against the center-right government in the Greek news media has been high, a month before national elections. In interviews along the stricken area, many residents expressed frustration at a rescue effort that seemed uncoordinated at best but said the scale of disaster might have been beyond any the government's ability to respond.

"What else can they do?" asked Dmitrios Panayiotopoulos, 40, watching from a hilltop as flames engulfed Karnasi. "They are doing their best."

And there, the battle against the fire seemed to go as well as possible: an hour or so earlier, the police had evacuated the village — or tried to, since many people stayed to protect their homes — and fire trucks, backed by deft little crop dusters, poured water on the flames.

Among the many problems were that the fires, once seemingly extinguished, often breathed back to life. In Karnasi, the danger seemed passed, but then one corner of the town suddenly reignited, sheathing trees in flames and fringing the steep access road to the town with fire.

In the village of Paradisia, in the heart of the peninsula, the few remaining residents recounted how on Saturday, a fire raced out of the surrounding forests not long after the town was evacuated. Somehow the flames whisked past the village, but did not touch the houses. Able-bodied men like Yiannis Pouris, 35, stayed behind to keep the flames away.

Civilian Deaths in Afghanistan Prompt Criticism of NATO, U.S.

By David Rohde
THE NEW YORK TIMES KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Afghan elders said Sunday that airstrikes had killed 12 civilians in the southern province of Helmand on Saturday night, but an American military spokesman blamed Taliban militants for the civilian deaths.

Exactly what occurred in the remote area Saturday was unclear, with local elders and American military officials giving conflicting accounts. But the charges and countercharges reflected growing tensions in Afghanistan over civilian deaths.

Hajji-Agha Muhammad, an Afghan elder, said airstrikes had killed 12 civilians and wounded 12 others in Kobar, a village in the volatile Musa Qala district, Saturday night. Muhammad said the dead included six children ages 3 to 6 and two women.

American military officials said

Afghan and American troops had clashed with Taliban fighters in the area who were guarding a large heroin lab. Helmand produces more opium than any other province in Afghanistan, and Taliban militants are believed to have struck an alliance with drug traffickers in the Musa Qala area.

After American and Afghan forces destroyed the lab, they were ambushed by Taliban fighters, American officials said. During the battle, the Taliban fired 82-millimeter mortars. NATO responded with airstrikes, they said, but no bombs fell on houses.

"We didn't target any buildings or any structures," said Lt. Col. David Accetta, a spokesman for the American forces in Afghanistan. "My guess would be that if any houses were destroyed, it would have been the result of Taliban fire."

An official at the main hospital in Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital,

said two men, two women and one child arrived from Musa Qala on Sunday with shrapnel wounds. Additional wounded people were taken to nearby hospitals, he said, but he had no exact figures.

The issue of civilian deaths is causing rising anger in Afghanistan this year.

More than 300 Afghan civilians have died in NATO airstrikes, according to one international report. Under growing public criticism, President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan has repeatedly called for NATO to use restraint and to better coordinate its attacks with Afghan forces.

At the main hospital in Lashkar Gah, a relative of the wounded, Hajji Saeed Mohammad, told Reuters, "We can't do anything, can't stay in our villages and can't go anywhere." He added, "It is best for us to be killed all at once than being killed every day."

WEATHER

Comfort Is in the Air

By Cegeon J. Chan
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

While freshmen and first-year graduate students are likely being comforted by Orientation leaders and various MIT administrators, mother nature is providing comfort in her own way. Not only was it hot on Saturday, where Boston tied the all-time record high temperature of 96°F, it was also humid. Generally, dew point readings above 60°F is considered humid and over 70°F is oppressive. We topped off at 74°F Saturday afternoon, a reading normally observed near the Gulf of Mexico. Is it always this humid in Boston? According to the National Climatic Data Center, the average dew point reading in Boston is 62°F for August and a much drier 55°F for September.

While many may still find today's air slightly sticky, compared to this weekend, most can expect much more comfortable air for the rest of the week with dew point readings near 60°F. Any outdoor activities should remain rain-free and with Tuesday being even more sunny than today, it is likely the pick of the week. In the meantime, get comfortable at MIT and enjoy the nice stretch of weather.

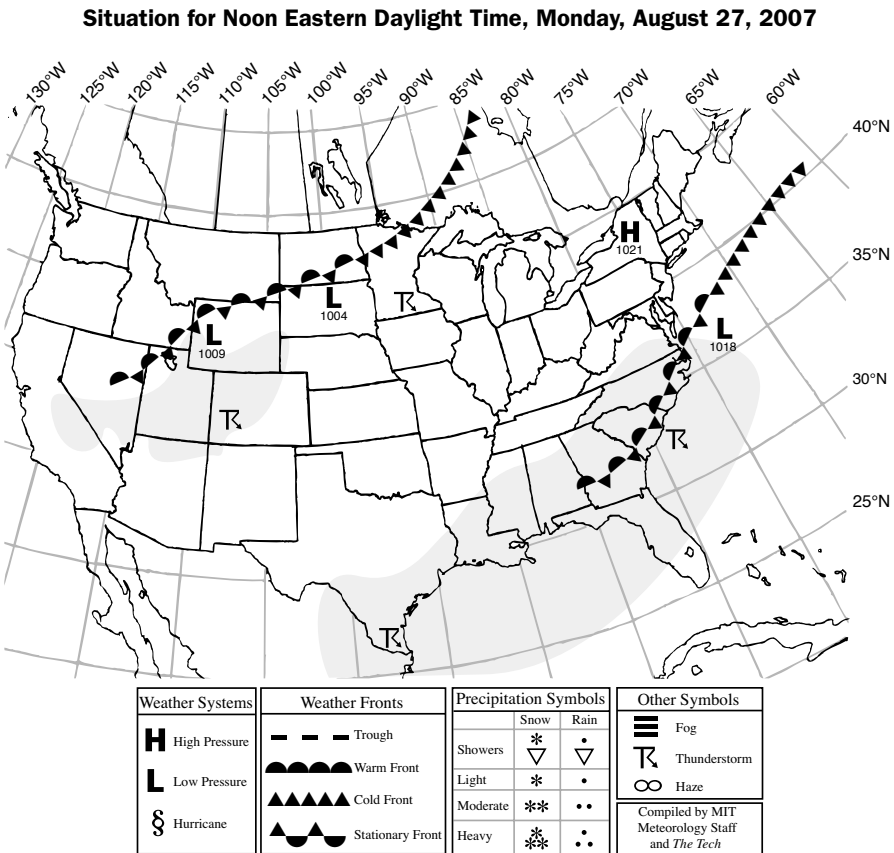
Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s°F (24°C).

Tonight: Mostly clear with lows in the upper 50°F (15°C).

Tomorrow: Sunny. Highs near 80°F (26°C).

Wednesday: Mostly sunny. Slightly more humid. Highs in the mid 80s°F (29°C).



Bush Defends Iraq Occupation Despite Its Low Public Approval

By **Steven Lee Myers**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

CRAWFORD, TEXAS

President Bush’s Iraq strategy faces a crisis of faith these days — from the American public. And he is confronting it the way he has previous crises: with a relentless campaign to persuade people to see things his way.

Bush interrupted his annual August retreat here last week for a speech to the Veterans of Foreign Wars replete with historical references to Vietnam, including a surprising citation from Graham Greene’s “The Quiet American.”

“I never knew a man who had better motives for all the trouble he caused,” he quoted from the book, apparently in a bid to dismiss those, like Greene, who considered American intervention in Vietnam ill-advised.

Bush, back at the Prairie Chapel Ranch, went on to record a radio address that showed neither doubt nor any intention of reducing the American commitment in Iraq. On Tuesday, he will make another speech in Reno, Nev., arguing that a hasty withdrawal of troops would prove disastrous for the Middle East and for American

security.

“We are still in the early stages of our new operations,” Bush said in the radio address broadcast Saturday, as if there were not those who fervently wished the country was in the later stages, preparing to bring the troops home.

The White House’s strategy is as unwavering as it is familiar. In military parlance, it is called preparing the battlefield — in this case for the series of reports and hearings scheduled on Capitol Hill next month to debate the wisdom of struggling on in the midst of Iraq’s sectarian chaos and bloodshed.

If recent history is a guide, Bush may well prevail, as he did in January when he made a similar blitz to build the case for dispatching more troops to Iraq, despite swelling public opposition to the war and a Democratic rout in last November’s elections.

“If there’s one thing that they’re good at, it is their ability to campaign for something,” said Tara McGuinness, deputy campaign manager for Americans Against Escalation in Iraq, a coalition of anti-war groups that has organized its own public-relations effort.

That is not to say the White House’s campaign does not face obstacles.

Public opinion remains sour. Republicans appear increasingly frustrated, chief among them Sen. John W. Warner of Virginia, who last week called for at least a symbolic reduction of troops by Christmas. And a new National Intelligence Estimate concluded that violence in Iraq remained high, that terrorists could still attack in spectacular fashion and that the country’s leaders “remain unable to govern effectively.”

The White House response was a classic look at the bright side. “The National Intelligence Estimate’s updated judgments show that our strategy has improved the security environment in Iraq,” a spokesman, Gordon D. Johndroe, said Thursday.

Critics have called Bush’s ever-upbeat message delusional. His rationale for the war has shifted so much since 2003 that any new pitch will have skeptics. His analogy last week between the war in Iraq and the epic struggles of World War II, the Korean War and, especially, the Vietnam War was ridiculed by some as revisionist or simply inaccurate.

Aides to Pakistani Pres. Reported In Talks With Two Main Opponents

By **Salman Masood**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

Close aides to Pakistan’s president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, and the chief of the country’s intelligence agency are in London to hold talks with Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif, the president’s two main political opponents, generally reliable Pakistani newspapers reported Sunday.

The high-level contacts with the two opposition leaders, who are planning to return to Pakistan to take part in elections, come at a time when government officials have said they are starting a dialogue with all the main political parties to seek “national reconciliation” and to ensure a smooth expansion of democracy.

Musharraf, who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1999, plans to run for re-election to a five-year term before Oct. 15 in a vote of the national and provincial assemblies. He faces an uphill task in securing a third term while still serving as army chief of staff.

The News, one of the most widely read newspapers in the country, reported that the chief of the powerful

Inter-Services Intelligence agency, Lt. Gen. Ashfaq Pervaiz Kiyani, and the chief of staff to Musharraf, Lt. Gen. Hamid Javaid, had arrived in London to hold talks with Sharif, a former prime minister, who was ousted in the 1999 coup. He has emerged as a major challenger to Musharraf after a Supreme Court ruling last week that said he should not be hindered from returning from exile.

Tariq Aziz, a top civilian aide to Musharraf, is also in London to work on an agreement with Bhutto, another former prime minister, The Daily Times, a leading daily from Lahore, reported. Bhutto has been in negotiations with Musharraf and his aides for months over a power-sharing deal that would allow him to continue for another term as a civilian president and allow her to return to take part in elections, freed of legal impediments.

Contacts between government officials and top opposition figures have gained momentum as the date for the presidential election approaches, and the obstacles to Musharraf staying in office have piled up. In particular,

the recently reinstated chief justice, Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, who fought a five-month battle against his dismissal by Musharraf, has shown an aggressive attitude toward government officials who are seen as showing disregard for the Constitution and the law.

Musharraf, who holds both the presidency and the top military job, intends to resign his military post after the presidential elections, senior government officials have said in recent days. However, he would still need the support of opposition parties to overcome constitutional obstacles to his re-election.

“President Musharraf is negotiating after losing ground politically,” The Daily Times observed in its editorial Sunday, saying that his position was growing weaker vis-a-vis the main opposition parties. “President Musharraf is trying to talk to everyone he thinks is still vulnerable, and that includes Maulana Fazalur Rehman,” the leader of a coalition of religious parties, the editorial said. “That is why both Sharif and Bhutto seem to be hesitating about coming to Pakistan.”

Iraqi Prime Minister Al-Maliki Angry At Two American Senators’ Criticism

By **James Glanz**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD

Prime Minister Nouri Kamal al-Maliki on Sunday extended his tongue-lashing of foreign politicians who have questioned his government, saying that Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Carl Levin needed to “start making sense again” after the senators, both Democrats, called for his ouster.

Al-Maliki, who previously reacted with anger to President Bush’s criticism of the Iraqi government’s lack of political progress, also lashed out at the French foreign minister, Bernard Kouchner, who called for al-Maliki to be replaced in an interview that appeared on the Newsweek Web site on Sunday.

But al-Maliki appeared to reach a new level of stridency with his reply to Clinton of New York and Levin of Michigan.

“Iraq is a sovereign country, and we will not allow anyone to talk about it as if it belongs to this country or that,” al-Maliki said. He added a phrase that could be translated as

indicating that the senators ought to make sense again or should return to a logical path.

Later in the day, al-Maliki appeared to have calmed down as he went through a series of meetings and participated in a joint statement of broad political unity by two major Kurdish parties, two Shiite parties, including his Dawa Party, and a bloc led by Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi, a Sunni.

The White House, eager for signs of progress, welcomed the agreement. A spokeswoman, Emily A. Lawrimore, said the leaders’ decision was “an important symbol of their commitment to work together for the benefit of all Iraqis.”

In advance of a report on progress in Iraq by the U.S. ambassador, Ryan C. Crocker, and the U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. David H. Petraeus, the statement appeared tailored to show that steps toward political unity had been taken.

The report by Crocker and Petraeus is widely expected to point to some advances on security and the economy, partly as a result of a U.S.

troop increase. But the fractious government has made little progress in crucial areas like laws regulating the development of Iraq’s oil resources and governing the sharing of oil revenues.

Despite the promising signs on Sunday, Iraq’s political process remains all but completely stalled and al-Maliki’s government has been gravely weakened by major defections in the past few weeks. In the most recent, the secular political alliance Iraqiya, led by former Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, withdrew from the government on Friday.

In an interview on Sunday on CNN’s “Late Edition,” Allawi said his alliance had “lost our faith in the capability of the current government of salvaging the country and moving forward.”

“I don’t see that we are getting closer to reconciliation,” he said. “I don’t see that we are getting closer to getting rid of militias. I am not seeing that we are getting closer to having an assertive policies, foreign policies, which would not allow Iran to intervene in Iraqi affairs.”

Teacher Shortage Leaves Districts Furiously Trying to Fill Vacancies

By **Sam Dillon**
THE NEW YORK TIMES GREENSBORO, N.C.

The retirement of thousands of baby boomer teachers coupled with the departure of younger teachers frustrated by the stress of working in low-performing schools is fueling a crisis in teacher turnover that is costing school districts substantial amounts of money as they scramble to fill their ranks for the fall term.

Superintendents and recruiters across the nation say the challenge of putting a qualified teacher in every classroom is heightened in subjects like math and science and is a particular struggle in high-poverty schools, where the turnover is highest. Thousands of classes in such schools have opened with substitute teachers in recent years.

Here in Guilford County, N.C., turnover had become so severe in some high-poverty schools that principals were hiring new teachers for nearly every class, every term. To staff its neediest schools before classes start Tuesday, recruiters have been advertising nationwide, organizing teacher fairs and offering one of the nation’s most generous recruitment bonuses, \$10,000 to instructors who sign up to teach Algebra I.

“We had schools where we didn’t have a single certified math teacher,” said Terry Grier, the schools superintendent. “We needed an incentive because we couldn’t convince teachers to go to these schools without one.”

Prosecution of Liberia’s Taylor Languishes

By **Marlise Simons**
THE NEW YORK TIMES PARIS

When Charles Taylor, the former president of Liberia, was arrested 17 months ago on war crimes charges and ordered to face international judges, it was heralded as a milestone for justice in Africa.

His trial, the first war crimes trial for an African president, was due to start in April.

But having barely begun, the case has already lost its momentum. Last Monday, hearings were postponed for the fourth time this year, and the court is now set to reconvene in January.

The latest disruption was the result of Taylor’s dismissal of his court-appointed lawyer, Karim Khan. His new lawyer, Courtenay Griffiths, told the court that his team needed at least four months to study the 40,000 pages of evidence already before the court. And he said that Taylor’s personal archives, about 50,000 pages, had only just surfaced and needed to be examined.

The delays have caused much finger pointing about who at the U.N.-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone is most to blame.

The responsibility is variously pinned on the judges for trying to schedule the complex case with undue haste, on the court administration for being inept and short of funds, or on Taylor — who has denied all criminal charges — for stalling.

‘South Park’ Creators Win Ad-Sharing in Digital Deal

By **David M. Halbfinger**
THE NEW YORK TIMES LOS ANGELES

In March, the season premiere of “South Park” began by barging into typically risqué territory, with a squirm-inducing bit about the taboo of using a racial epithet.

To Matt Stone and Trey Parker, the creators and executive producers of “South Park,” Comedy Central’s most lucrative franchise, the clip ought to have been blazing its authorized way around the Internet, picking up ad revenue with every set of eyeballs. Instead, the clip was easy to find, but it wasn’t making any money for its owners.

“If I’m overseas and have to get an episode right away,” Stone lamented, “you literally have to go to an illegal download site.”

Because of the slow entry into the digital realm of Viacom, Comedy Central’s parent, and an almost crippling deal point in Stone’s and Parker’s contract, the mordantly funny series has barely had a presence as an avalanche of user-generated entertainment hit the Web. Meanwhile, sites like YouTube met the demand for free “South Park” clips without paying for the privilege.

Now, however, Stone and Parker and their bosses at Comedy Central, a unit of Viacom’s MTV Networks, are attempting to leapfrog to the vanguard of Hollywood’s transition into the Web. In a joint venture that involves millions in upfront cash and a 50-50 split of ad revenues, the network and the two creative partners have agreed to create a hub to spread “South Park”-related material across the Net, mobile platforms, and video games.

Humane Society Has Its Sights On Amazon.Com

By **Andrew Adam Newman**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Michael Vick, the Atlanta Falcons quarterback, is expected to plead guilty Monday to federal dog-fighting charges and face up to five years in prison, but the Humane Society of the United States has a bigger target: Amazon.com.

The online bookstore sells subscriptions to two cockfighting magazines, The Feathered Warrior and The Gamecock, even though cockfighting has been declared illegal in all states. (Until Louisiana’s ban takes effect next summer, the activity remains legal in parts of the state.)

After trying in vain to persuade Amazon to stop selling the publications, the Humane Society filed a civil lawsuit in District of Columbia Superior Court asserting that the Web company violates animal cruelty laws and that the magazines, which run advertisements for blades that attach to birds’ legs, are effectively catalogs for illegal goods.

But Amazon says the suit amounts to censorship. “These materials are legal to sell, and we do not believe we should act as a censor because their message is objectionable to some people,” said Patty Smith, a spokeswoman for Amazon, adding that her company sells subscriptions to more than 90,000 magazines. “With our incredible selection of titles, we’re bound to sell something that someone will find objectionable.”

OPINION

Welcome to MIT



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Congratulations, your hard work and effort have been justifiably rewarded by your admission to the Institute. Understand that you are here for a reason — you fill a unique niche in the MIT community. Many of you have left lasting marks on your hometowns and high schools, and it is now time to start making a lasting impression on MIT.

Editorial

Orientation and rush are times to find a home, find friends, and find a passion. In order to succeed here, you must be comfortable with where you live and be supported by those around you. When times get rough, a non-academic passion in the form of a research project, sport, student group, or hobby is necessary to keep you balanced. Over the next week, you will have to pierce the facades of dozens of living groups, hundreds of students groups, and a number of social cliques to determine what is right for you. There are more course options than you have time to consider, more activities than you have time to enjoy, more work than you have time to complete. Your primary task at MIT will be to determine what things are important and what are not, and to allocate your full effort to completing what is important while learning to give less time and energy to what is not.

There are 11 undergraduate dormitories, each with its own distinct personality. Over the next few days, take the time to interact

with the residents of each and find the place you feel most comfortable. If you do not find a dormitory that suits you, be sure to check out fraternity and sorority rush. Find something you care about. Attend Friday's Activities Midway and listen to what students have to say. Use the Midway to find something, or many things, to get excited about and stick with them. You will cherish the break extracurricular activities provide once classes get into full swing.

Beyond Orientation, Pass/No Record will allow you a fair amount of extra time during your first semester; use it wisely. Push your comfort zone. Say hello to that person you never would have talked to in high school. Take a class in a major you know nothing about. Go to parties in both fraternities and dormitories, east campus and west campus.

Be sure to take advantage of Boston and Cambridge — both for the people and for the cities themselves. Hang out at Harvard, Boston University, Boston College, Tufts, Emerson, Berklee, and the dozens of other surrounding schools. Take a class at Wellesley or Harvard. Visit the Museum of Fine Arts, go to a Boston Pops concert, or enjoy a Red Sox game.

Finally, understand that you are here to learn and to better yourself. MIT will challenge you both emotionally and academically. Do not dwell on your failures and instead realize that they happen to the best of us. Good luck.

Corrections

The Dec. 5, 2006 police log reported erroneously the charges on which two MIT graduates had been arrested. Mateusz Malinowski G and Kabir Mukaddam '05 were arrested on charges of disorderly conduct, not indecent exposure.

Due to an editing error, the July 6, 2007 news article on Professor James L. Sherley misstated the date of Sherley's e-mail to President Susan Hockfield. The e-mail was dated July 5, not June 5.



SPORTS BETTING 2007

Opinion Policy

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Dissents are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to letters@the-tech.mit.edu. Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

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ARTS

CONCERT REVIEW

A Concert to Remember

Rush Performs Works From Last Three Decades

By Balaji Mani

Rush
Tweeter Center, Mansfield, Mass.
June 27, 2007

Growing up, my parents drove a car with only a tape player. My sister owned *Moving Pictures*, probably Rush's most popular album, on cassette. I wore that tape out; now all the songs sound a half step up, but I don't mind. Rush is a band that instantly made its home in my mental library and has been occupying and expanding it ever since. It's not like I can stop them; they have 18 studio albums and five live albums in their back catalog. Geddy Lee (bass, vocals, synthesizers),

Alex Lifeson (guitars, vocals, synthesizers), and Neil Peart (drums, percussion) performed for nearly three straight hours at the Tweeter Center in Mansfield last month. I was one of 19,000 fans, rocking out to all 28 songs. The concert kicked off with "Limelight," a classic from *Moving Pictures*, and continued with a retrospective journey through Rush's older albums. At the climax of the first set, Rush jumped into "The Main Monkey Business," an instrumental track from their latest release, *Snakes & Arrows*. After more than 30 years of playing together, Rush continues to write exceptionally intelligent, musically challenging, technical, and emotional arrangements.

Scattered between sets and particular songs

were videos in which Rush showed their humorous and artistic side. "The Larger Bowl" was preceded by a hilarious introduction by the McKenzie Brothers and "Tom Sawyer" was introduced by the foul-mouthed animated boys of South Park. And in an effort to promote the new album, the second set introduced five new songs, all of which were accompanied by a dazzling video-synched spectacle, displayed on several screens throughout the venue.

A personal highlight for me included the performance of "Witch Hunt," a song that Rush has not played in years. It was as if I was back in my car listening to *Moving Pictures*. In fact, "Witch Hunt" wasn't the only song performed that night that they had not played in years; Rush

rehearsed for weeks, re-learning a good majority of their songs. Neil Peart, with a reserved and focused look on his face, pounded through "Witch Hunt" elegantly to replicate every little nuance and fill. "Natural Science," a song that clocks in at 9:05, was flawless and epic: a nauseating fist-pumping anthem that transitions through droning, brooding, and optimistic sections.

The technical savvy of Rush, combined with their appreciation for their fans (a love strong enough to make them dust off songs like "Entre Nous" and "A Passage to Bangkok") made for a fantastic show. A rock show is a rock show, but a Rush show is celebration of the chemistry between three of modern rock's greatest virtuosos and millions of fans worldwide.

MOVIE REVIEW ★★½

One Dizzying Ride

'Bourne Ultimatum' Great Film But a Little Shaky

By Jillian A. Berry

ARTS EDITOR

The Bourne Ultimatum
Directed by Paul Greengrass
Written by Tony Gilroy and Scott Z. Burns
Starring: Matt Damon, Julia Stiles, Albert Finney, and Joan Allen
Rated PG-13
Now Playing

The Bourne Ultimatum," the latest release in the Bourne movie series, is the epitome of a summer thriller: action-packed with enough suspense to leave you on the edge of your seat and wanting more. "Ultimatum" picks up where the last movie, "The Bourne Supremacy," left off, and it features most of the cast from the first two films (or at least the living characters), including Matt Damon as the title character Jason Bourne, Julia Stiles, and the amazing Joan Allen. Even if you didn't see the last two movies, or you're like me and forgot some of the details, the movie is still worth seeing.

But for those who would like a recap of where the second movie left off: Jason Bourne has gotten a taped confession from someone who worked with the CIA to set up the program that trained him. Meanwhile, Bourne, who the CIA believes is dead, is in search of more information about his history so that he can try to understand the flashbacks that are tormenting him.

The movie opens with a journalist who is researching Bourne and the experimental program used to train him. Bourne tries to protect this journalist, but in the process, the CIA learns that he is in fact alive. From this point forward, the movie is the traditional game of cat and mouse with Bourne trying to discover his identity and the CIA trying to discover Bourne — with a few car chases and explosions thrown in for good measure.

One of the great things about the Bourne series is that there is enough mystery built into the storyline to keep the audience interested both during and between action scenes (not that there is much of the latter). We are always guessing what will happen next. And even though we don't always understand what is happening (even after it is explained), it's not always crucial to weave the little details and double crosses into a coherent story in order to enjoy the film. At the end of the day, the reason anyone watches this movie is to see the action scenes, and it doesn't disappoint. There are car chases, motorcycle chases, an amazing trip through a train station, and a car driving off a roof, to name a few of the essentially non-stop action sequences.

Although the focus of the movie is on the heart-racing action sequences, there is some character development and at least a few pages of dialogue (though I'm pretty sure Matt Damon averaged a lot of money per word). The charac-



UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

Jason Bourne, played by Matt Damon, tries to evade capture in London's underground in "The Bourne Ultimatum."

ter with the most development in the film would have to be Pam Landry (Joan Allen), one of the people working with the CIA to find Bourne. Though she was in the last movie, Allen's part was much smaller and did not give her the room to show off her impressive acting talents. In contrast, in this film, we see her as more of a person rather than a plot device, and Allen brilliantly portrays her character as a strong woman with a great sense of morals. Like Allen, Julie Stiles' role in this movie is greater than in either of the past films, and she uses this additional time on screen to show that she can play a mysterious and adult character. Both women shine in their roles with their subtle, yet realistic portrayals of complicated characters.

Despite the great action sequences and the

interesting storyline, the movie has one major flaw: the camera work. Director Paul Greengrass (who also directed the "The Bourne Supremacy") does not seem to believe in a steadycam. Instead, the whole of the two hour movie is shot with more movement than even the worst home movies. Sure, this technique adds some drama to action scenes, but it also adds confusion. I could get over it if he merely shot in this manner for motion shots, but he doesn't. No, he shoots the entire movie this way. By the end, my head was spinning. After all, when I'm just watching two people sitting down and having a conversation, I really don't want to feel dizzy. But if you can get over some of the crazy filming techniques, "The Bourne Ultimatum" is a pretty great summer movie.

INTERVIEW

White Rabbits Need No Lucky Foot

Steve Patterson Regales With Tales of NYC, Network TV, and Frankenstein Instruments

By Sarah Dupuis

ARTS EDITOR

Last March, I proclaimed White Rabbit's debut LP *Fort Nightly* album of 2007, wildly ignoring the laws of conservative announcements and completely forgetting that there were still nine months left in the year. The claim sticks, and I'm not the only one who thinks so; since then, their calypso-infused and darkly danceable debut has garnered serious attention from music press bigwigs. The band was playlisted by Pitchfork Media, made Band of the Day by Spin, earned NPR's Song of the Day with single "The Plot," and named one of the top four bands to watch in 2007 by The Onion A.V. Club.

Following their network television debut on the David Letterman this July, I saw them in concert at Siren Music Festival at Coney Island, playing to a thoroughly enthusiastic crowd. A few days later I did an interview with keyboardist and singer Stephen Patterson. Has all the sudden attention gotten to their rabbiting heads? Hardly, and I'm betting more success is just around the corner for this terrific band.

The Tech: Tell me how you guys met up.
Stephen Patterson: We all grew up in the same area. A couple of us — Alex [Even] and I — grew up in Jefferson City, which is the capital of Missouri. We all sort of convened in Columbia, which is a college town, sort of an oasis in a big awful state. That's where we all met up and started playing shows and learning how to play our instruments and stuff like that. Greg [Roberts] and Alex and Adam [Russell] were in a band together, and I worked with Greg in a record store called Streetside Records. It got bought out by a corporation a few years ago, but it was hip back then, I promise.

So we worked there for probably a year or two or so and always flirted with the idea of being in a band together. Then the band that those three were in lost their drummer. Well, I went to school for percussion; I studied jazz composition and things like that, and so we started playing together, doing some songs that they had written. Then I started helping them write stuff, and then Matt [Clark] joined in, played organ.

TT: How'd you wind up in New York?
SP: We moved to New York probably about a year after [Matt] joined. Then we started making the record. We ended up putting a lot of drums on the album, which necessitated adding a second drummer and that's where Jamie [Levinson] comes in. He was moving to New York anyway and he was an old friend of Greg's — they went to kindergarten together, lived on the same street growing up — so it seemed like a natural choice for him to join the band. And that's how the six of us all came together.

TT: What were the first shows you guys started off playing? I've heard you played Crashin' In ...

SP: We played Crashin' In at Galapagos and we haven't been invited back — I think it's because we did some damage to the dressing room. But the first show we ever played was in the lower East Side at a place called Fat Baby. That's where we met up with Aaron Romenello, who's our manager and label owner, and he hooked us up with Chris Zane, who produced the album. We were very fortunate to have met them so early on, and they helped us get some gigs. Thankfully, we didn't have to go at it on our own for very long.

TT: What was it like going from places like Fat Baby to playing Letterman?

SP: Yeah, I think we have the title of being the smallest band ever on Letterman. Ever.

TT: I saw on Letterman that Adam plays a Squier [a kind of bass guitar]. Is that the first one ever on network TV?

SP: He used to have a habit of trashing his bass whenever he was in a punk band in high school, but he also for some reason was always able to get a new one the day after — for free. Someone would always pop up and be like, "Hey, man, I saw you trashed your bass — want mine?" So this one is actually a pretty nice bass, but when he had to take it in for repairs, they put a Squier neck on it. We give him shit for it.

TT: Tell me about the recording of *Fort Nightly*.

SP: We did it at Gigantic Studios, which is in Chinatown, and at a couple of other studios in Brooklyn. We also travelled upstate to our engineer's cabin and recorded vocals in the mountains, which was a thrill. But the majority was done at Gigantic.

TT: Do you guys split up songwriting?

SP: Yeah, it's pretty democratic. The whole band is involved in the writing. And generally Greg and I split up the lyrics and vocal parts because we're the ones singing.

TT: I can guess you like The Specials, just based on the album —

SP: Indeed.

TT: — so are there any other influences I might be surprised to hear you love?

SP: Lyrically, me and Greg look to Randy Newman. We're big fans of The Pogues. We also listen to a lot of calypso records which I think comes across on a few tracks. Personally, I'm a big Steve Naive fan — he was the pianist for The Attractions. We also like the Everly Brothers, and we look to them for harmonies. I don't think any of those are really too shocking, though.

TT: Speaking of harmonies, I've noticed you guys have an incredible sense of pitch. You're

dead on in concert, which is pretty rare.

SP: That's autotune — just kidding. None of us have any training vocally, really. Pretty much I just sang along to records when I was a kid, just sort of figured it out. Early on we started harmonizing. Practice helps.

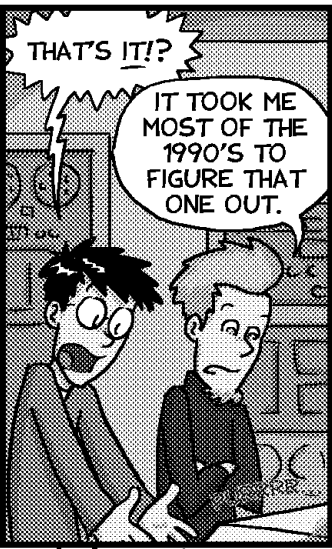
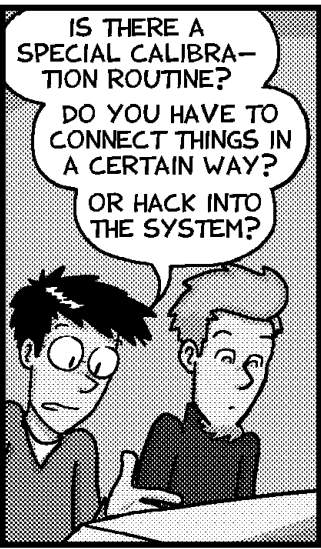
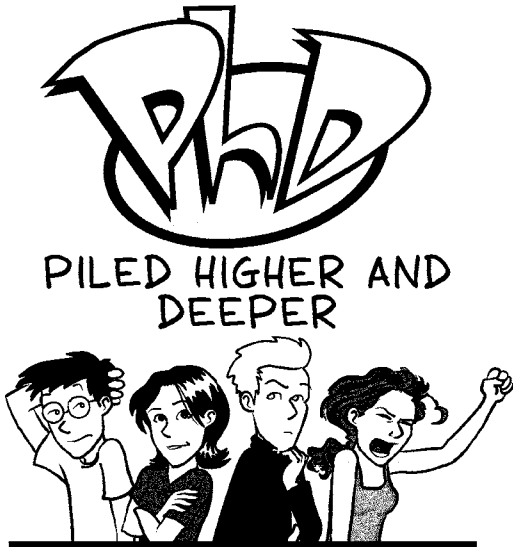
TT: How did you hook up with John Natchez [from Beirut]?

SP: John played with some ska band in the Midwest who I think did some shows with Jaime and Greg's high school band. But also Chris Zane used John for horn parts on the Harlem Shakes record, which he also produced. So I guess it was more through him [Zane] that we were hooked up with John, but there's still a Midwest connection. He's a fantastic guy, we're recording some new stuff and he came in the studio the other day to work on it.

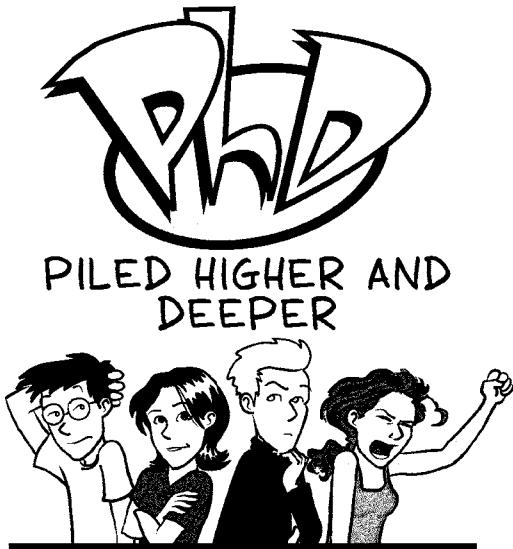
TT: What are the new songs like?

SP: No big departure from the first record. We're doing a couple of the songs we play live: "Cotillion Blues," that's the one John plays on. It's sort of a New Orleans street band tune. We wrote it up in Columbia and put it away for a year, so it's been around for a while, but we brought it back out once I was on piano. Now we're taking it in more of a ragtime-y direction. That'll be the A-side to a single we're putting out through Gigantic Records, which will come out in a few months, and the B-side will be a cover of Randy Newman's "The Beehive State," which we play on occasion. Then the third one is the newest song we've written since the record, which has a dark feeling to it. But we're really excited. We feel a lot more confident as players since we've been on tour. It'll be good.

White Rabbits continue to tour with Kaiser Chiefs through September. Catch them at the Beacon Theatre on Sept. 29 when they return to New York City.



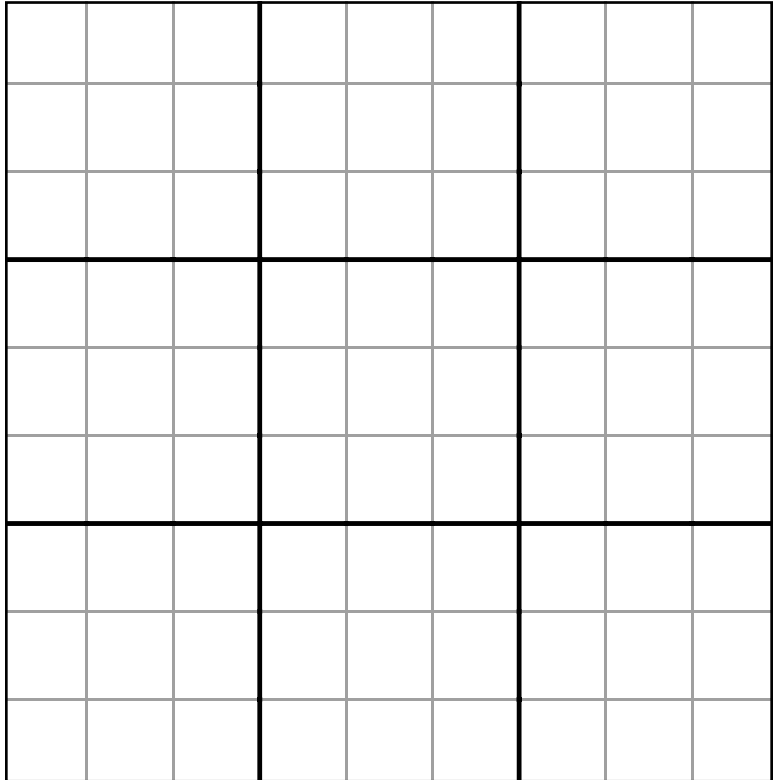
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Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>; see also solution, page 12.

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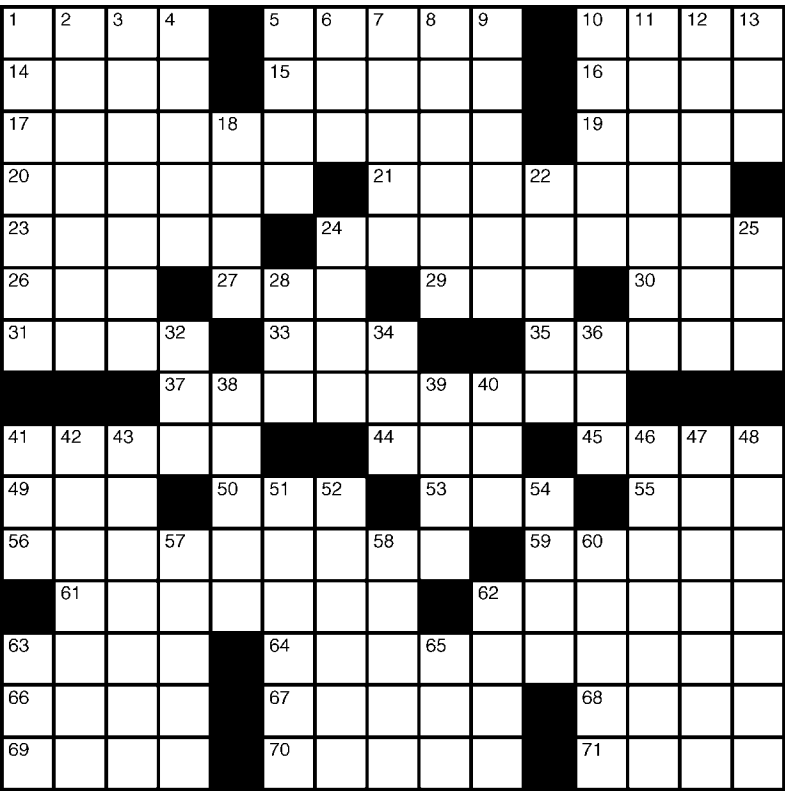
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Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 11

ACROSS

- 1 Velvety flora
- 5 "Kama ___"
- 10 "Carmina Burana" composer
- 14 Body or knock lead-in
- 15 Sub-Saharan region
- 16 Horizontal barrier
- 17 Obstinate
- 19 Height: pref.
- 20 Target sighters
- 21 Squealer
- 23 Buy a round
- 24 Cardiac cycle
- 26 Weekday abbr.
- 27 Fermented beverage
- 29 Pasture in poetry
- 30 Winter ATV, ___-Cat
- 31 Korean apricot
- 33 Bro's sib
- 35 Shabby
- 37 Youth org. and puzzle theme
- 41 Discharge from the RAF
- 44 Israeli weapon
- 45 Ellipsoid
- 49 Pay extension?
- 50 DDE's arena
- 53 Atmosphere
- 55 "___ Maria"
- 56 Surrenders
- 59 Sits in neutral
- 61 Stay abed
- 62 Comes about
- 63 Bickering
- 64 Kind of insurance
- 66 Pleasure trek
- 67 Let in
- 68 Egyptian sun god: var.
- 69 Bakery worker
- 70 Works hard
- 71 Four-posters



DOWN

- 1 Honoric for Gandhi
- 2 Long golf club
- 3 Flower parts
- 4 Part one of a tape
- 5 Fast fliers, for short
- 6 Egt.-Syr., once
- 7 "___ Were the Days"
- 8 Car for hire
- 9 Tipper's mate
- 10 Big name in toothbrushes
- 11 Most risque
- 12 Biting insect
- 13 Mr. Ziegfeld
- 18 Mexicali miss
- 22 Hokkaido port
- 24 Will beneficiary
- 25 Miniature
- 28 Shaq's alma mater
- 32 Sci-fi craft
- 34 Chinese kingdom
- 36 Blood class. syst.
- 38 XXX large
- 39 Old autocrat
- 40 Half of CIV
- 41 Homer Simpson exclamation
- 42 Flexible
- 43 Anthropoid
- 46 Appraise
- 47 Swore
- 48 Decreases
- 51 Astaire/Rogers classic
- 52 City in northern Spain
- 54 Loaded with fat
- 57 Impede
- 58 As a friend: Fr.
- 60 1983 Mr. T movie
- 62 Baseball's Mel and Ed
- 63 Hawaiian tuna
- 65 Adjective for Abner

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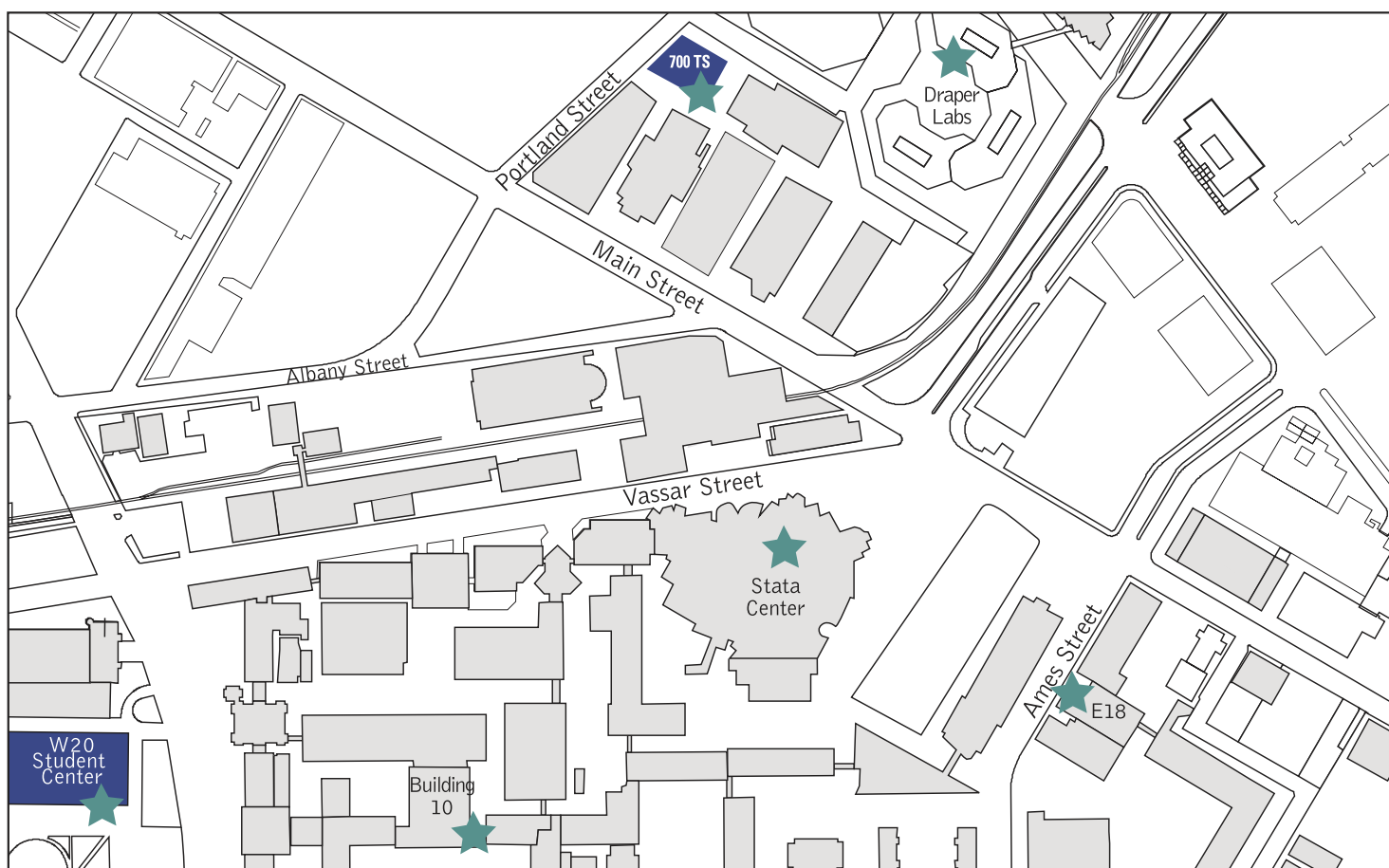
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Musical Theater Guild Presents *Cabaret*



The Musical Theater Guild premiered *Cabaret* this past weekend. The story, set in the late 1920s in Germany, follows the Master of Ceremonies of the Kit Kat Klub and visitor Clifford Bradshaw. *Cabaret* will have performances this Tuesday, Aug. 30 through Saturday, Sept. 1 and Tuesday, Sept. 6 through Saturday, Sept. 8. All performances begin at 8 p.m. in Kresge Little Theatre. For more information <http://web.mit.edu/mtg/www/>.

(clockwise from top left)

Cabaret character Sally Bowles (played by Mia A. Shandell '10) flips through the pages of *Mein Kampf*, which she mistakenly assumes her new lover wrote.

Sally Bowles (Mia A. Shandell '10) seduces Clifford Bradshaw (Barry M. Kudrowitz G) at the Kit Kat Klub.

The Master of Ceremonies (Carlos Cardenas '09) and the Kit Kat Girls sing "The Money Song."

Fraulein Schneider (Elizabeth V. Stephanopoulos '07) sings to Bradshaw (Barry Matthew Kudrowitz G) about choosing life over love after Schneider broke up with Jew when the Nazis rose to power.

A visitor at the Kit Kat Klub (Holly B. Laird '07) mocks the mischievous calls made by the Kit Kat Girls.

Photography by Ana Malagon



Class of 2010, 2011 Demographic Breakdowns Similar

Admissions, from Page 1

nent residents.

The percentage of admitted students choosing to enroll has steadily increased since the 2003 yield of 58.8 percent for the Class of 2007. The final yield for the Class of 2011 was at a record 68.8 percent, with 1,069 students of the total 1,553 admits expected to enroll, Schmill said.

According to Schmill, 81 percent of Early Action admitted students and 85 percent of students admitted from the waiting list chose to enroll this year.

According to Schmill, those who chose not to enroll at MIT instead enrolled at Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, or Yale.

Geographically, the greatest fraction of students comes from the West coast and Southeast region (including Puerto Rico); each area makes up approximately 19 percent of the incoming freshman class. Fifteen percent of the students represent the

Secondary Schooling		Geographic Region	
Schooling Type	Fraction	U.S. Region	Fraction
Public	69%	Southeast & Puerto Rico	19%
Private	14%	West Coast	19%
Religious	9%	Mid-Atlantic	15%
Foreign	6%	Midwest & Great Plains States	13%
Home	<1%	New England	12%
		South & Southwest	12%
		None (International)	10%

Students from the Class of 2011 hail from 49 states and 58 other countries. The class is one of MIT's most competitive, with a record-low 12.3 percent acceptance rate.

SOURCE: ADMISSIONS OFFICE

Mid-Atlantic states, 13 percent the Midwest and Plains states, 12 percent the New England states, and 12 percent the South and Southwest

states. The remaining 10 percent is distributed abroad.

Additionally, this year's incoming class hails from 833 different

Ethnicity				
Ethnicity	2011	2010	2009	2008
Caucasian	38%	37%	39%	35%
Asian American	26%	28%	24%	26%
African American	9%	8%	6%	6%
Mexican American	7%	7%	5%	7%
Other Hispanic	3%	3%	3%	3%
Puerto Rican	2%	2%	2%	2%
Native American	1%	1%	2%	2%
Other / No Response	6%	6%	10%	13%
Non-U.S. Citizens (Not Surveyed)	8%	8%	10%	6%

high schools, a 5 percent increase from the previous year, according to Schmill. Sixty-nine percent of the class attended public schools while

14 percent attended private schools, 9 percent religious schools, 6 percent foreign schools, and less than 1 percent participated in home schooling.

Graduate Student Orientation Gives More Focus to International Students

Orientation, from Page 1

field with the Convocation Book, which contains the names of the new class.

According to Julie B. Norman, director of UAAP, 17 Freshman Pre-Orientation Programs were held one week before Orientation, including a new departmental energy and environmental FPOP. These FPOPs gave freshmen a chance to explore specific areas of study or non-academic interests before Orientation began. Norman said that 468 students participated in FPOPs this year.

Several aspects of Orientation changed this year, Chapma said. In the spirit of the "Tech Royale" theme, UAAP replaced last year's Freshman Boat Cruise with a "Tech Royale Casino Night." The event will be held at the Longwharf Marriott Hotel Friday, and professors have been invited to mingle with students at the card tables, according to the Orientation guide.

"The City of Cambridge does not allow any fake tables or play money," Chapman said. "However, the Mar-

riott is a fancier venue, and we've created a ballroom atmosphere." According to Chapman, there will be several card tables, blackjack tables, other games, and a movie that will be part of the whole "Tech Royale" theme.

For the first time, MIT will bring in a diversity speaker for Orientation. Instead of showing a student-produced video on diversity, Eddie Moore, Jr., a professional speaker, will talk about ethnic, racial, and sexual diversity in society.

The freshmen also received a five-subject notebook for free during check-in this year, according to Chapman. The UAAP worked with a company called Shadow Notebooks to include eight pages of MIT-related information in the front of the notebooks.

The coordinators for this year's Orientation are Edward G. Fagin '08, Kaitlyn G. McCartney '09, Joshua L. Sklarsky '09, Ted A. Fernandez '09, and Emily J. Onufer '10.

Grad students learn about MIT

In the midst of the undergradu-

ate orientation frenzy, the graduate orientation, mainly hosted by the Graduate Student Council, also kicked off yesterday with a welcome barbecue at Ashdown House. The graduate welcome address will occur at Kresge Auditorium on Thursday.

Unlike the undergraduate orientation, which is more focused on activities, athletics, and social life, the graduate orientation focuses on career options, resources around campus, and cultural assimilation of the international students.

According to GSC President Leeland B. Ekstrom G, this year's graduate orientation will focus more on international students, which constitute nearly 30 percent of the MIT graduate population.

"One of the GSC events that wasn't done last year is the International Festival," said Sabrina L. Spencer G, a graduate orientation coordinator.

Graduate student orientation will end on Sept. 22 with the Mid-Autumn Boston Harbor Cruise.

Nick Semenkovich contributed to the reporting of this article.

Additional Space For Frosh in Next House, Simmons Affect Lottery

Housing, from Page 1

lottery could be attributed to a larger freshman class, different dormitory choices made by freshmen this year, and more open spaces for freshmen in Next House and Simmons Hall compared to last year. Simmons had 150 open spaces for freshmen this year but only 112 last year. Next House had 154 open spaces this year; it had 133 spaces last year.

Additionally, 10 fewer spaces for freshmen in McCormick Hall may have contributed slightly to the lower percentages, as McCormick generally has a large number of first-choice requests, according to Smedick.

Baker House was the most requested dormitory, with 349 students selecting it as their first choice dormitory. Burton-Conner with 174 students, MacGregor House with

139 students, Simmons Hall with 132 students, and East Campus with 79 students followed for first-choice requests.

There were 1,073 incoming freshmen at the time of the lottery, Smedick said. With one student living off-campus, a total of 1,072 entered the Summer Housing Lottery. By late last week, the number of incoming freshmen had decreased to 1,069.

The Adjustment Lottery opened last Thursday, Aug. 23, at noon and will close tomorrow, Aug. 28, at 6:30 p.m. The Adjustment Lottery is open to all freshmen who are interested in changing their fall dormitory placement except those who have been placed in McCormick Hall or Next House, which have Residence-Based Advising. Lottery results will be available Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m., followed by in-house rush.

What percentage of each dormitory's new residents ranked it as their first choice in the summer lottery?

Residence	Class of 2011	Class of 2010	Class of 2009
Baker House	100%	100%	98%
Bexley Hall	38%	28%	40%
Burton-Conner	73%	76%	70%
Chocolate City	71%	71%	75%
East Campus	52%	60%	84%
French House	25%	83%	100%
German House	29%	43%	43%
International House	71%	—	—
MacGregor House	79%	100%	57%
McCormick Hall	74%	99%	73%
New House	30%	38%	51%
Next House	18%	36%	49%
Random Hall	100%	100%	100%
Senior House	22%	41%	33%
Simmons Hall	61%	71%	88%
Spanish House	67%	80%	88%

SOURCE: ROBIN SMEDICK, HOUSING

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Harvard Endowment Reports 23 Percent Gain For FY

By **Geraldine Fabrikant**
THE NEW YORK TIMES

The Harvard Management Company, which oversees the endowment of Harvard University, reported Aug. 21 that the endowment had posted a 23 percent gain for the fiscal year ended June 30.

That brought the value of the nation's largest university endowment to \$34.9 billion. The endowment is overseen by Mohamed A. El-Erian, who formerly ran Pimco's emerging market bond fund.

Together with other assets and related accounts, the total value at the end of June rose to \$41 billion, from \$33.5 billion a year ago. Its 23 percent total gain exceeded the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index, which was up 20.6 percent for the same period.

The results reported Tuesday came before problems with mortgage-related securities began to unsettle the markets in July and led to several hedge funds reporting substantial losses. In late July, one such fund, Sowood Capital Management, was forced to sell its portfolio and return \$1.5 billion to investors. Harvard had invested \$500 million with Sowood

when it was started in 2004 by former Harvard managers.

Mr. El-Erian said in his letter yesterday that it appeared Sowood losses would account for a 1 percent decline in the fund, but that as a result of other investments that offset the loss, the endowment gained 0.4 percent in July. The Sowood loss is roughly \$350 million.

Harvard's performance is being closely watched not only by other endowments, but by money managers in general. For years under Jack R. Meyer, Harvard turned in strong performances, eclipsed only by Yale, under David Swensen. But Mr. Meyer left Harvard in 2005, and this is considered the first year that Mr. El-Erian is beginning to make his mark on the endowment.

Several specialists involved in the endowment world said that although Harvard's figures were very good, they were perhaps not as stellar as what Yale is expected to report next month. Though few universities have reported, last week the University of Virginia said its endowment had returned 25.2 percent. That endowment has a value of \$4.3 billion.

Like Yale, Harvard invests in a range of assets that include equities, real estate, commodities, private equity and hedge funds. It is an investment approach that is increasingly imitated by other endowments as well as wealthy individuals.

Still, "people want to turn this into the academic equivalent of a football game," as one university investment officer put it. "But if you do well year after year, and avoid disasters, then the math is such that it will provide excellent results over the long term because of compounding."

In an interview, Mr. El-Erian said that the biggest contributor to profit was the emerging markets investment, which last year accounted for 8 percent of the endowment, but rose 44 percent in value.

In the past Harvard has disclosed the gains of every asset group, but it is a sign of the growing competition in the market that it no longer gives those numbers.

A money manager close to Harvard noted that some people were concerned that Mr. El-Erian had not seen the Sowood loss coming because Sowood had a big stake in bonds and

Mr. El-Erian's expertise is in bond trading.

Asked about Sowood, Mr. El-Erian said that funds often require a multi-year lock-up. Though he declined to be specific, that raised the question of whether Harvard could have withdrawn its money before the Sowood loss, even if it wanted to.

He and others also said that Harvard had a successful investment in Denham, a commodities fund started by a former Sowood trader.

Though slightly less than half of Harvard's assets are managed internally and the rest are run by outside managers, Mr. El-Erian has taken some money away from existing funds, including Highfields, a hedge fund run by a former Harvard trader, Jon Jacobson.

At least \$2 billion is already being allocated to new managers.

Mr. El-Erian wrote that one of his goals was to emphasize risk management at a time when markets and investment strategies seem so interdependent that diversity might not always provide protection in a downturn.

Mr. El-Erian wrote that one of his goals was to emphasize risk man-

agement at a time when markets and investment strategies seem so interdependent that diversity might not always provide protection in a downturn.

For example, Mr. El-Erian said of Harvard's current strategy, "When we entered the new fiscal year, we had hedges against the credit markets and the equity market. When the market sold off, we made money on the hedges. That helped offset the decline in the S. & P. and Sowood. That emphasis applies not so much to trading as to managing risk."

Solution to Crossword
from page 6

M	O	S	S		S	U	T	R	A		O	R	F	F
A	N	T	I		S	A	H	E	L		R	A	I	L
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M	O	N		A	L	E		L	E	A		S	N	O
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H	I	K	E		A	D	M	I	T		A	T	E	N
I	C	E	R		T	O	I	L	S		B	E	D	S

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Ask SIPB

Drop by our office
in W20-557!

By The Student Information Processing Board

Welcome, especially to freshmen and new graduate students! Ask SIPB is a column published regularly by the Student Information Processing Board, the volunteer student group concerned with computing at MIT, to help students like you learn more about the computing resources MIT provides and how to make effective use of them.

I don't have a computer/printer/scanner. Where can I go?

MIT has a number of clusters sprinkled around campus, containing Athena workstations and printers. The largest cluster is W20-575, located in the Student Center. In addition, there are several "quickstations," workstations with timers in various convenient spots such as the Infinite Corridor or many building lobbies. Most of these workstations run Linux-Athena or Solaris-Athena, which provide a common user interface and set of software in addition to access to the various Athena systems (files, printers, etc.).

A small number of workstations instead run Windows or Mac-based variants of Athena, which come with a different selection of software. There are two clusters of Windows machines, one in the back room of the W20-575 cluster, and the other in 37-312. The New Media Center, in 26-139, is a cluster of iMacs and G5 Power Macs with a variety of multimedia hardware and software.

You can find a list of Athena clusters on the back of the Athena Pocket Reference you received when you checked in, or by typing:

```
athena% cview
```

How do I get into the Athena clusters or New Media Center?

The Athena clusters and NMC are protected by push-

button combination locks. To find out the current cluster combo, on any Athena machine (such as a quickstation), type:

```
athena% tellme combo
```

Does MIT provide a free virus scanner?

Yes! Many new computers only come with short-term demos of virus scanners, so it's vital to your computer's security that you uninstall the demo and install a good virus scanner with an updated set of subscriptions. MIT has a license for VirusScan, which you can download (with certificates) from <http://web.mit.edu/software/>.

You should also keep your computer up to date with the latest patches. Visit <http://web.mit.edu/ist/topics/security/patch.html> for instructions on keeping your Windows or Macintosh computer up to date.

I forgot my password. What do I do?

If you have certificates on your computer, you can reset your password at <http://wserv.mit.edu/cpw>. Alternately, you can visit the friendly folks at Athena User Accounts. Bring your ID to building N42 during business hours and ask for a password reset.

Where can I get more help with computing at MIT?

MIT has two official help desks for computing-related questions, both located in building N42. OLC, short for On-line Consulting, is the Athena helpdesk, which you can contact by e-mailing olc@mit.edu or calling (617) 253-4435. The Computing Help Desk answers questions for personal computers, including Windows and Macintosh systems; you can e-mail them at computing-help@mit.edu or call them at (617) 253-1101. The help desks are open during normal business hours.

Both help desks maintain a set of stock answers to frequently asked questions. OLC's is at <http://web.mit.edu/answers/>, and the CHD's is at <http://itinfo.mit.edu/answer/>.

You can also come ask SIPB in person or via e-mail. Our office is W20-557, right next to the Athena cluster. Any time the office is open (typically from early afternoon to late evening), you should feel free to ask us questions about anything computer-related. You can call us at (617) 253-7788 or email sipb@mit.edu.

If you are having trouble getting your computer onto your dormitory network, you can ask your Residential Computing Consultant for help. RCCs are fellow dormitory residents who can do everything from assigning IP addresses to providing network cables to helping you configure networking on your computer. To get in contact with your RCC, ask around your dormitory or visit <http://rcc.mit.edu/> to submit a request.

How can I learn more about computing at MIT?

IS&T provides some documentation on various components of Athena at <http://web.mit.edu/olh>; we'll cover some of those topics in the next several issues. Also, stay tuned to this column for information about our Computer Tours on Sept. 6 or upcoming Cluedumps (more information at <http://cluedumps.mit.edu/>). Ask SIPB is published every day during Orientation and every two weeks during term; tomorrow's column will cover e-mail and Zephyr.

To ask us a question, send e-mail to sipb@mit.edu. We'll try to answer you quickly, and we might address your question in our next column. You can also stop by our office in W20-557 or call us at x3-7788 if you need help. Copies of each column and pointers to additional information are posted at <http://www.mit.edu/~asksipb/>.

Freshmen Explore Dormitories

REX, from Page 1

House, and McCormick Hall, while the Monday evening "Briggs Field Fluorescent Block Party" includes MacGregor House, New House, Next House, and Simmons Hall.

Phadnis also added that MIT Dining has catered food for nearly all of the dormitories for the Aug. 26 Dinners@Dorms event, even though dining halls will not officially be open.

DormCon faced a number of challenges in planning this year's REX, which included securing public space for REX activities and distributing REX event schedules to

freshmen, said DormCon President Sarah C. Hopp '08.

Specifically, DormCon, the Panhellenic Association, and the Interfraternity Council spent time drafting a REX/Recruitment Agreement, which encourages freshmen to explore all facets of MIT's living groups, according to Hopp.

"This agreement says dorms can only have 'free-flowing' events during the first few days of FSILG recruitment to host parties before the first day of classes," Hopp said. Free-flowing events must be designed so that freshmen can leave any dorm-sponsored event as they please, according to the agreement.

Because sorority recruitment will occur in the fall this year, DormCon and Panhel made sure that REX and Panhel events would not overlap, according to Hopp.

Hopp said she hopes freshmen will receive REX brochures at future Orientation check-ins to increase attendance at smaller-scale dorm events that occur early in Orientation. These events are "often incredibly important for freshmen to get a feel for a dorm so they can make an informed housing decision," she said. Additionally, she said she would like to increase the duration of REX to allow more time for freshmen to explore dorms.

Police Log

The following incidents were reported to the MIT Police between July 24 and Aug. 12, 2007. This summary does not include incidents such as false alarms, general service calls, larcenies, or medical shuttles.

- July 24:** M5 (55 Mass. Ave.), 1:30 p.m., Breaking and entering no force; larceny of laptop computer.
- July 25:** M7 (77 Mass. Ave.), 8:17 a.m., Breaking and entering no force; larceny of laptop computers. M57 (18 Rear Vassar St.), 1:19 p.m., Fraud, larceny of credit card from the locker room.
- July 31:** M5 (55 Mass. Ave.), 9:26 a.m., Breaking and entering no force; larceny of laptop. M50 (142 Memorial Dr.), 10:53 a.m., Open investigation for breaking and entering. W79 (229 Vassar St.), 8:57 p.m., Lisandro Quinones, 229 Vassar St., Cambridge, Mass. taken into custody on warrant for violation of a restraining order.
- Aug. 1:** M7 (77 Mass. Ave.), 3:35 p.m., Breaking and entering no force; report of larceny of laptop and video camera.
- Aug. 3:** M5 (55 Mass. Ave.), 2:13 p.m., Reporting person reports being harassed by known party.
- Aug. 5:** M7 (77 Mass. Ave.), 2:56 a.m., MIT Police car was just rear ended. Cambridge Police, professional ambulance dispatched to scene. Cambridge Police make one arrest for DUI. W84 (550 Memorial Dr.), 10:53 a.m., Kenneth Souza, 50 Summer St., Brockton arrested for drug possession and default out of Boston.
- Aug. 6:** W51 (410 Memorial Dr.), 10:49 a.m., Reporting person reports past sexual assault with known party; assault occurred on May 24, 2007. West Garage Annex, 6:46 p.m., Reporting person reports break into motor vehicle; laptop stolen from back seat. Hayward Lot, 7:56 p.m., Reporting person reports break into motor vehicle; radio and

- a bag stolen.
- Aug. 7:** LCA (99 Bay State Rd.), 4:44 a.m., Burglary; reporting person reports waking up to suspect in her room. Suspect told to get out. Suspect left residence by second floor window.
- Aug. 8:** 99 Bay State Rd., 11:58 a.m., Burglary and unarmed assault; reporting person reports waking up due to suspect touching her; suspect left area when confronted by reporting person. Incident occurred on July 22, 2007. W85 (540 Memorial Dr.), 9:48 p.m., Assault and battery; reporting person reports black male wearing white shirt and red shorts riding a bike grabbed her from behind and then he fled the area towards Memorial Dr.; areas checked for suspect.
- Aug. 9:** PSK (487 Commonwealth Ave.), 12:56 a.m., A complaint of loud music at this residence; resident turned the music off. E51 (70 Memorial Dr., second floor), 10:02 a.m., Reporting person states a homeless person has taken up residence in one of the lounges; person is not there now. 99 Bay State Rd., 1:21 p.m., Burglary and unarmed assault; reporting person reports waking to find an unknown person attempting to get into reporting person's bed. Incident occurred on July 22, 2007.
- Aug. 11:** W79 (229 Vassar St.), 9:38 a.m., Arrest warrant served to Lisandro Quinones, 229 Vassar St., Cambridge, Mass. on violation of a restraining order.
- Aug. 12:** M50 (142 Memorial Dr.), 3:16 a.m., Passerby reports possible domestic disturbance in front of Walker Memorial. MIT Police dispatched; no one found upon arrival. 407 Memorial Dr., 3:20 a.m., Victim states that laptop was stolen from room between 1-3 a.m.; MIT Police dispatched. W89 (291 Vassar St.), 1:31 p.m., Violation of a restraining order; application for warrant sought.

COMPILED BY ANGELINE WANG

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For information on the grants program, look here:
<http://web.mit.edu/arts/do/funding/grants.html>

The next deadline for grant applications is

Friday, September 28

For more information, please contact
Susan Cohen at cohen@media.mit.edu

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Evan Thews-Wassell
etw@mit.edu

daily

confuzion

Monday,
August 27, 2007

08:00
08:00—**Burton-Connor**—Breakfast
08:00—**Next House**—Mmm, waffles ... What better way to start the day off than with some waffles! Grab a quick bite before Advanced Standing Exams or just chill. Syrup, jam, whipped cream ... the possibilities are endless!
08:00—**Senior Haus**—the early jack gets aku. season 3 of samurai jack in the tv room.
08:17—**Random Hall**—Random Breakfast! Come to Random Hall and eat some warm breakfast before your exams.

09:00
09:00—**New House**—Dance Party and Food — Come to the real party dorm on campus and grab some snacks while you mingle.
09:34—**Random Hall**—TIME. TIME. WHAT IS TIME? SWISS MANUFACTURE IT. FRENCH HORDE IT. ITALIANS WANT IT, HUH? WELL, I MUST BE THURSDAY. I NEVER COULD GET THE HANG OF THURSDAYS.
09:48—**La Maison Française**—Il était une fois dans la ville de Foix un marchand de foie se dit «Ma foi! C'est la première fois et la dernière fois que je vends du foie dans la ville de Foix.»

10:00
10:07—**EAsT campUS**—fuck and come all over our building ... tours

11:00
11:00—**MacGregor**—Miss Macgregor Competition! — A group effort to create the winner for our beauty pageant. Come for a

laugh!
11:00—**Burton-Connor**—Tie Dye
11:00—**iHouse**—Open House and iHouse tours. 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
11:17—**Random Hall**—Chain-mail! Learn some of the basic weaves from Random Hall's resident amateur maillesmiths.
11:34—**Random Hall**—H IS FOR GERBIL, THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME, COOKIE COOKIE COOKIE STARTS WITH O.

12:00
12:00—**Senior Haus**—Lambda Sigma Delta: a history. Also, tours.
12:00—**Simmons Hall**—Picnic Lunch: Yes, Simmons residents do leave the Sponge — catch them outside, enjoying a picnic lunch!
12:00—**New House**—Barbecue and Tours — Come chat and look around NH while you grab a burger or a hot dog
12:00—**EAsT campUS**—green hair & frosh
12:17—**Random Hall**—Heart Attack Food! Fatty and/or cheesy and/or sugary goodness.

13:00
13:00—**MacGregor**—Barbecue! — Come and have lunch outdoors, take a quick tour, or participate in a game of frisbee.
13:00—**La Casa**—Meet the city you'll be living in for the next 4 years. Find out the nice places to go and enjoy yourself in your free time.
13:00—**Simmons Hall**—Duck Tours: Did you remember to sign up for the tour of Boston, Simmons-style? If you didn't sign up yesterday, there may be spots available.
13:34—**Random Hall**—THE ONLY THING BETTER THAN DDR IS FREE DDR.

13:37—**Senior Haus**—SH-colloquium: crack house or crack home?

14:00
14:00—**Burton-Connor**—BBQ: Mmm, burgers.
14:00—**EAsT campUS**—through hole 10k resistor ... 50 uF capacitor ... 8 pin 555 ... 10 kHz oscillator ... wait ... 10? or was it 100? BBZZZZZZTTTTTTTTTTTT.
14:17—**Random Hall**—Tie Dyeing! Plain white is boring — come Randomize your shirt's color variable.
14:17—**Random Hall**—Table-top Roleplaying! You and your comrades are sitting on a couch in Random Hall's Black Hole lounge, holding strange polyhedral dice. Before you sits a crafty upperclassman. What do you do?
14:34—**Random Hall**—JESUS IS THE BEST RADIO PRODUCER IN THE BEANS. WE NEED SOME SALIVA AND PICKLES TO GET MAD.

15:00
15:00—**Senior Haus**—Watch Joshua Pevner snort pepper. Express disdain in e-mail, greeting card, or interpretive dance form.
15:34—**Random Hall**—1111111111 IS 21649 TIMES 513239.

16:00
16:17—**Random Hall**—Silent Speed Diplomacy! Diplomacy is the rabid grandmother of strategy war games. We will be playing through online chat, and we will speed up turns so that games only take around 45 minutes. Bring your laptop if you have one.
16:21—**EAsT campUS**—EC: if the house taxes don't kill you, the velociraptors will.
16:34—**Random Hall**—FUNKY DIVAS ATTEMPT TO ROUND UP CERTAIN SMALL CHIL-

DRENS' TOYS SMATTERED UP WITH TINY RAINMAKER COMPACT DISCS SENT UP AS SPUTNIK WAS SUMMARILY DESTROYED BY THE FACT THAT DUCKS ARE QUITE COOL.

17:00
17:17—**Random Hall**—Truffle Making! Come to Random Hall and make your own delicious chocolates!

18:00
18:00—**Senior Haus**—Air squid hunting. Let the psychonautical adventures begin.

19:00
19:00—**La Casa**—Join us for a fun-filled night of games and snacks ... tipsy twister, shoto-poly, and other fun, fun stuff ;-)
19:34—**Random Hall**—I ALWAYS KNEW DIFFERENTIAL OPERATORS WERE EVIL.

20:00
20:00—**Senior Haus**—find out what a donkey punch is in room 366C
20:17—**Dormitory Council**—Warning: batteries are not included with this version of Random Hall.
20:30—**Dormitory Council**—There are glowing things on Briggs Field. Oooh ... shiny.

21:00
21:48—**La Maison Française**—Combien sont ces six saucissons-ci? Ces six saucissons-ci sont six sous. Si ces six saucissons-ci sont six sous, ces six saucissons-ci sont trop chers.
21:58—**Senior Haus**—Everyone gets laid again.

23:00
23:30—**La Maison Française**—Oh là là! Il fait chaud en dehors, mais pas à La Maison Française où nous allons «serve up some ice cream, sip ice-cold lemonade and munch on freshly-bakes cookies», et bien sûr «speak le français» (ou le vrai français, si vous préférez). New House 6: top floor.

23:56—**Senior Haus**—Scatological Filmmaking
23:59—**EAsT campUS**—Come use a crowbar and make Gordon Freeman proud.

Tuesday,
August 28, 2007

00:00
00:00—**Burton-Connor**—Midnight Sports: possibly the only thing cooler than indoor soccer is indoor whiffleball.

02:00
02:17—**Random Hall**—Random House of Pancakes! Once again, we stay up late to feed you pancakes.

04:00
04:44—**Random Hall**—IS SEPHIROTH A GIRL...FRIEND?

07:00
07:00—**Senior Haus**—come meet the senior house running club in the courtyard for a nice morning run

08:00
08:00—**Burton-Connor**—Cereal and Cartoons: start your day off right. With lots of sugar.
08:00—**Senior Haus**—the early jack gets aku. season 4 of samurai jack in the tv room.
08:17—**Random Hall**—Random Breakfast! If there is one thing in this world worse than morning exams, it's morning exams and a cold breakfast. Come on over for a quick meal.

09:00
09:00—**iHouse**—Open House and iHouse tours. 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
09:00—**Next House**—Mmm, waffles ... What better way to start the day off than with some waffles! Grab a quick bite before Advanced Standing Exams or just chill. Syrup, jam, whipped cream ... the possibilities are endless!
09:34—**Random Hall**—IT'S HOT IN HERE SO TAKE OFF ALL YOUR BASE ARE BELONG TO US



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Two Testing Companies Agree to Pay to Settle SAT Error Lawsuit

By Karen W. Arenson
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Two big testing organizations, the College Board and NCS Pearson Inc., said Friday that they had agreed to pay \$2.85 million to settle a class-action lawsuit involving more than 4,000 students whose SAT exams were incorrectly scored in 2005.

Under the proposed settlement, the students would receive \$275 each, or possibly more if they can show they suffered greater damages. The board said last year that for 4,411 students, the reported scores were too low — in a few instances by as many as 450 points out of a possible 2,400. A retired judge will decide the final payments.

Edna Johnson, a spokeswoman for the College Board, said the board had agreed to the settlement because “we’re eager to put this behind us and focus on the future.”

“We deeply regret the inconvenience and the worry that this caused affected students and parents,” Johnson said, adding that the College Board had since “put in place even more quality control measures.”

Amanda M. Hellerman, of Yorktown Heights, N.Y., who said she initially received a score that was more

than 300 points below what it should have been, said, “It is great to hear that the College Board is being held accountable.” Hellerman, who now attends Amherst College, added, “But what would be more promising to me is they gave some indication of how they were going to insure that this kind of thing does not happen again.”

The College Board disclosed in March 2006, in the midst of the college admission season, that about 1 percent of the nearly 500,000 students who took the SAT exam in October 2005 had received incorrect scores because their answer sheets had become moist, causing them to be misread when scanned for scoring. NCS Pearson, one of the country’s biggest testing companies, had a contract with the College Board to handle the scoring.

While the board sent revised scores to colleges, some students said the lower scores had affected where they applied and it was too late to make changes. The board discovered the problems after a couple of students paid to have their tests rescored by hand.

The size of the minimum settlement is not that different from what some students pay for taking the SAT

multiple times and for additional services like rushing their score reports, sending them to additional colleges, changing their testing centers or verifying that an exam had been scored correctly. Sitting for the basic SAT test costs \$43. The charge for having the results of the test double-checked is \$50.

Robert A. Schaeffer, public education director for FairTest, a group that is critical of much standardized testing, called the settlement “an important reminder that standardized tests are fallible and that reported scores can be wrong.”

State Sen. Kenneth P. LaValle, a Republican from Port Jefferson, N.Y., who is chairman of the Senate’s higher education committee and who held hearings on the scoring problems, also welcomed the agreement. “Vindication is always a nice thing,” LaValle said, adding that he still felt the need for greater oversight. “The testing institutions need to be accountable.”

T. Joseph Snodgrass, one of the lawyers in Minnesota who represented the test takers, said that if the settlement received final approval from a federal district judge in late November as expected, he believed payments could go out early next year.

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SPORTS

MIT Can Be Hell, But the Pro Sports Scene Is Heaven

By Caroline Huang
SPORTS EDITOR

Welcome to MIT, a place often described by its students as challenging, rewarding, and, to put it politely, hell on earth. Don't be discouraged, though — for one thing, upperclassmen love complaining about MIT, even though we wouldn't have it any other way. For another, MIT is a sports fan's heaven: there are 41 varsity sports, 30 club sports, and countless intramurals for those interested in working off academic stress. Look for preview articles and spotlights of these sports in upcoming issues. Right now, however, I'm going to concentrate on the professional

sports scene surrounding MIT. The MIT main campus is just a stone's throw away from plenty of New England sports teams. In particular, there's a team just across the Charles River, located right in front of the illuminated Citgo sign in Kenmore Square. Boston's heart still belongs to the Red Sox, even with that New England football team developing a baseline of excellence. The Sox currently sport the best record in the majors, lead the American League East by seven-and-a-half games, and are set to begin a three-game series against the Yankees on Tuesday. Talk of another World Series would be premature, given that it's only August and there is plenty of baseball left, but it certainly is tempting given the four-game sweep of the

Chicago White Sox. Knowing the Boston atmosphere and the media, it is a given that by this time tomorrow, the Red Sox will be anointed as the 2007 World Series Champions based on the White Sox series alone. While on the subject of teams with outsized expectations, it would be a perfect time to talk about the New England Patriots. After Bill Belichick and Scott Pioli added Wes Welker, Donte' Stallworth, Adalius Thomas, and Randy Moss — considered the strongest collective off-season acquisitions in the National Football League, with the contracts to show for it — there was widespread speculation that Belichick had suffered a midlife crisis and set about picking up trophy players to fill the void. Whether or not that's true remains

to be seen, but that — along with Tom Brady's second-string QB, to be named later — is about the juiciest gossip the media will receive about or from the Patriots. If you want to see scandal, you can turn on your television or open any newspaper and read about Michael Vick's murky guilty plea. Freshmen, you can also be grateful that you arrived in a year when the Boston Celtics' front office found the personnel necessary for the team to be a well-oiled machine (yeah, I'll believe that when I see it) rather than a guaranteed train wreck. Though the front office traded essentially the entire team (Al Jefferson, Ryan Gomes, Gerald Green, Sebastian Telfair, Theo Ratliff, and two first-round draft picks, not to mention cash) for Kevin Garnett, the

team looks markedly improved, even if it is essentially a 3-v-5 game every time the Celts take the floor. KG, Ray Allen, Paul Pierce, and whoever else the Celtics cobble together may play in an admittedly weak Eastern Conference, but it's still a step up. Just think. You could be paying to see a playoff contender instead of a joke. Oh, and then there are the Boston Bruins. God bless a new season for making me hopeful that this year will be different. I certainly hope that my low, low expectations are blown out of the water. But I'm not holding my breath. There you have it — that's the cynicism you should come to expect from Boston sports fans and MIT students alike.

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